

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:CY

SUBJECT:SITUATION REPORT NO. 6: SITUATION IN CYPRUS

AS OF 1500 EDT AUGUST 16

1. MILITARY SITUATION IN CYPRUS. TURKISH ARMED FORCES
APPEARED TO CLINCH THEIR CONQUEST OF THE NORTHERN THIRD
OF CYPRUS TODAY. BY MID-MORNING, THE TURKS CONTROLLED
THEIR MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF FAMAGUSTA IN THE EAST AND
MORPHOU ON THE WESTERN END OF THE SO-CALLED "ATTILA LINE"
DIVIDING THE ISLAND. ACCORDING TO THE TURKISH BAYRAK

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RADIO, TURKISH TROOPS ALSO LINKED UP WITH TURKISH CYPRIOTS

TO TAKE OVER LEFKA, THE LAST GREEK CYPRIOT STRONGHOLD IN THE NORTH.

2. TURKISH PREMIER ECEVIT CONFERRED WITH THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, CONCLUDED THAT ALL MAJOR TURKISH MILITARY OBJECTIVES HAD BEEN ACHIEVED, AND DECLARED THAT TURKEY WAS PREPARED TO COMPLY WITH A CEASEFIRE AS OF 1900 TURKISH TIME (1200 EDT). PRESIDENT CLERIDES OF CYPRUS ANNOUNCED HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THAT CEASEFIRE PROPOSED BY ANKARA.

3. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE CEASEFIRE IS HOLDING. MOST FIRING HAS STOPPED IN NICOSIA. AS THE DUST CLEARS,

IT APPEARS THAT THE TURKS REACHED LIMNITIS -- GIVING THEM CLAIM TO REAL ESTATE FROM MYRTOU AND MORPHOU TO LIMNITIS IN THE WEST. INLAND FROM THAT CRESCENT, THE SITUATION IS MORE VAGUE. PHILIA REMAINS GREEK, AS DOES YEROLAKKOS AND THE BITTERLY CONTESTED ROAD CENTER ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF NICOSIA. THE TURKS DID NOT MAKE SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES IN THE CITY ITSELF AND THUS CONTROL ONLY THE NORTH PART OF NICOSIA.

4. CYPRUS. TURKISH AIR STRIKES AND ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRE THIS MORNING FORCED THE EVACUATION OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION STAFF AND, TEMPORARILY, OF PRESIDENT CLERIDES AND HIS IMMEDIATE ENTOURAGE. CLERIDES LATER RETURNED TO NICOSIA FROM THE SOUTHERN RESORT TOWN OF LIMASSOL TO CALL FOR A CEASEFIRE, EFFECTIVE 1800 CYPRUS TIME. US AMBASSADOR DAVIES REPORTED THAT THE SITUATION IN NICOSIA COULD BECOME DESPERATE IF THE TURKISH CEASEFIRE IS NOT OBSERVED. AN AMERICAN NEWSMAN (SERGE FLIEGERS) WAS WOUNDED WHILE COVERING FIGHTING NEAR THE NICOSIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

5. TURKEY. PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT CONTINUES HIS DETERMINATION TO BRING ABOUT A RAPID SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS SITUATION. ACCORDING TO CIA REPORTS, HE REMAINS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS HAVE A GEOGRAPHIC BASE AND AUTONOMOUS ADMINISTRATION IN CYPRUS.

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THE TURKISH MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT HAS PLEDGED ITS FULL SUPPORT TO ECEVIT AND INTENTION TO KEEP THE MILITARY OUT OF POLITICS -- PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT FEELS INDEBTED TO ECEVIT FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO RED"EM ITS OWN REPUTATION IN CYPRUS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FROM LONDON, TURKEY HAS ASKED FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE CYPRUS PEACE TALKS, AUGUST 19.

6. GREECE. GREEK PREMIER KARAMANLIS HAS TURNED DOWN AN INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THE CYPRUS CRISIS. HE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD UNFORTUNATELY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO LEAVE GREECE AT THIS TIME.

7. THE GREEK MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAS NOTIFIED GENERAL GOODPASTER THAT GREEK MILITARY PERSONNEL IN NATO HEAD-QUARTERS HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY PLACED ON A 15-DAY NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL AND THAT HELLENIC AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DETERMINE THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF GREEK OFFICERS WHO SHOULD REMAIN AS GREEK-NATO LIAISON. THERE IS NO OFFICIAL CORROBORATION OF RUMORS THAT THE US WILL BE OUSTED FROM FACILITIES IN GREECE. THE GREEK CHARGE IN MADRID TOLD

THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT GREECE HAS SEVERED ITS MILITARY, NOT POLITICAL, TIES WITH THE ALLIANCE AND THAT GREECE HAD NOT ALTERED ITS MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US.

8. IN GREECE ITSELF, TENSION EASED FOLLOWING PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS' ANNOUNCEMENT ON AUGUST 15 THAT RULED OUT A GRECO-TURKISH CLASH OVER CYPRUS. THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY LIMITED ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS.

9. UN. THERE IS NO FURTHER WORD ON THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, SCHEDULED FOR THIS AFTERNOON. IT IS ALSO UNCLEAR WHETHER THE FRENCH WILL TABLE A RESOLUTION DURING THAT SESSION.

10. NATO. SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS REPORTED TO THE NATO CYPRUS GROUP ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH GREEK DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF. THE GREEKS, LIKE THE TURKS, BELIEVE THAT NO CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY A LUNS' SECRET

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VISIT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS. KISSINGER

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